Community Input to Bays Precinct Task Force March-July 2012.

1. **What the Task Force will do.**
The Task Force plans to have a formal community consultation process from late April (maybe) through May and maybe into June. There will most likely be two series of workshops (possibly 2 for each side of the Bays in each series) and then a final wrap-up.

These will be facilitated by a consultancy KJA.

They will be based on information to be presented at the workshops (mainly at the first round) on needs, constraints, and a possible options study by the Government Architect.

There is a Consultation Sub Committee which met on Tuesday to plan this process. Lesley Lynch attended in my absence from Sydney.

2. **How can community groups both influence the process?**
This formal consultation process will be very late in the Task Force process. The report is due to Government at the end of July. It is important that I am able to feed a strong community perspective into the development of the materials for the formal consultation. It would help enormously if we could quickly activate a structured community input process involving all groups active or interested in the Bays Precinct. It is important we clearly identify maximum consensus on key issues and speak with one voice on this.

And, of course, there will be a few issues on which there will not be consensus. We need to identify these also and groups should feel free to argue separately their position.

3. **Community Representation on the Task Force**
Everything would be easier if the community had more representation on the Task Force. The CRG recommended a strong community role in the second stage of the Bays Precinct planning. It is a positive that the Government has now included community representation on the Task Force, but it is a very onerous task for one person—especially with the very tight time frame. I have flagged this at the Task Force. The outcome has been that Lesley Lynch (member of CRG and Glebe Society) has been formally permitted to attend the Task Force meetings and subcommittees to assist me.

Numbers of community groups are writing to the Premier and relevant Ministers requesting an additional two community members on the Task Force. This would be excellent if successful, but in the meantime we have to continue with what we have.

4. **A workable mechanism for community input**
There are some very pressing timeframes to pull together community views on the key issues of objectives/principles and land use options, broad visions.

To try and do this I am contacting all community groups from the CRG and any additional active/interested community groups I can identify, and asking them to participate.
I need organisational help on this. Some community groups have volunteered informed individuals for this task. It would be good to have 2 people from each side of the Bays – and it would make sense if at least one from each side was a CRG member.

If we can get this to work, I will be able to put material/arguments on the table at the Task Force and its subcommittee meetings with proof of community unity.

It may be useful to reactivate the Bays Alliance – a loose alliance of CRG groups set up after the CRG Bays Precinct public meeting in July 2010 – as an overarching group- although it is probably more powerful to continually list all the individual groups endorsing any view.

5. **Bays Precinct Objectives and Principles**

We need to demonstrate very quickly that there is strong community consensus on most of the critical planning principles. We need to be very strong and very specific on those principles which are most often breached by governments, their agencies and developers.

We need to produce a clear statement of principles we all support (and include recognition of the division on the working harbour issue). This should not be difficult given the amount of work done already by the CRG and other groups.

It would be very useful to be able to put this on the table for consideration when the brief is being drawn up for the development of the options paper – **in the next ten days or so!!**

Also the Task Force report will advise Government as to the consensus or otherwise of views on these principles so it will be important for me to be able to present a clear position in Task Force meetings.

Community groups can use this material in other ways- via letters to the Premier, Ministers, and press releases.

6. **Land uses/Vision**

We also need to do work to elicit views on land uses and broad visions for the precinct.

It seems likely that the report to Government will include sections on an integrated whole of precinct vision and for each of the sub-precincts.

If we wait until presented with these at workshops, it will be difficult to make an impression.

7. **Other Coordinating mechanisms**

The two councils (Sydney and Leichhardt) are significant additions to the Task Force and hopefully will be strong supporters of their community perspectives.

I will be in touch again soon.

Jane Marceau
Community Member
BAYS Precinct Task Force